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# Annual Parish Meeting 17th April 2023 7:30pm at the Hartfield Village Hall

**The AGENDA is as follows**:

1. Apologies for absence and attendance register.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllrs Roger Eastwood and Neil Reed.

1. To Approve Annual Parish Meeting minutes from 2022.

**Duly approved and signed as true record by the Chair Giles Horner.**

1. Report from PCSO

PCSO Matt Dowd outlined current activities and initiatives including the geographical area covered.

There is generally low crime levels and mainly low level theft. There are liaison efforts between the neighbouring councils to cover the activities and ensure a continuous communication.

Concerns over speeding were raised. The PCSO would take back the request for speed patrols.

The PCSO highlighted the possibility of buying property marking kits.

Concerns over drug taking in the Village and Forest Row were noted and the PCSO agreed to look into the concerns and increase police presence.

*Cllr Horner thanked PCSO Matt Dowd for his time.*

1. Chairman’s report on Parish Council Activities.

Cllr Horner reported on the Parish Council activities and responsibilities and the geographical area covered.

He outlined the upcoming uncontested election and highlighted the two vacancies for anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

He reported on the financial overview for 2022/23 income and expenditure streams. The budget for last year had a short surplus for normal activities. There were also community infrastructure funds which could be used for future improvements.

He highlighted the community activities including the coronation and the Honey Run in 2022. A rescheduled litter pick was also noted. Funding for a warm hub was highlighted.
The Council was looking at options for the pavilion roof and also for storage improvements for the community groups.
The Parish Council continue to pursue ESCC for pot hole and road repairs however understand the constraints of funding and organization from ESCC.

The ongoing speeding issues in Holtye and Upper Hartfield continue and the Parish Council are liaising with ESCC over possible locations for a speed indicator device.

The sustainability initiatives including the solar panels on bus shelters and LED lighting at the pavilion were reported on.

The emergency plan for the parish has been updated using lessons learned from recent water supply shortages and also the snow storm in 2022.

Finally he thanked Cllr Charlotte Beare who was stepping down from the Council after a decade of service.

1. Report from James Adler – Ashdown Forest Conservators.

Cllr John Smith presented James Adler with a cheque from the Parish Council for £500 from the Honey Run.

There was a concern over increasing costs, lack of facilities and loss of funding.

He reported on the lack of engagement as a ratio of visitors to those people engaging in the website, vision statement and visitor centre.

He raised concerns over wildlife decreasing and environmentally trying to improve it for future generations. He highlighted the increase in local housing and the pressure on the Forest from increased population.

He highlighted the joined-up route from Ashdown Forest to Clymping. He also highlighted the initiative with farmers to join up the areas of the Forest to improve access.

Over 2000 parking passes had been sold and the funds are helping to pay for car park maintenance.

Finally he reported on the 100th birthday in 2026 for Winnie the Pooh and visitor numbers increasing and how to harness interest in the area without detriment to local residents.

He took some questions from the public.

There was some concerns over the parking charges, availability and accessibility.

He confirmed most users were compliant with the charges.

He also confirmed the by laws preventing cycling on the forest were unlikely to change.

The visitor centre geography was noted as a possible issue. Toilets, general facilities and engagement with visitors were all noted as required improvement with a focus on outreach to local communities.

Dog walkers with out of control dogs was not acceptable and increased dog walking was causing issues along side increase grazing that was needed for improve the environment of the Forest.

*Cllr Horner thanked James Adler for his time.*

1. Reports from local groups.

Cllr Burnett- Dick reported on the fete which would be going ahead on

He also outlined the coronation activities within the Parish including the Anchor and Holy Trinity Church and urged local support.

Sheila Van-Maurik reported on Holy Trinity activities including the Jubilee lunch in 2022, the ongoing Trinity talks and Scottish country dancing. She outlined the coronation lunch on 7th May and the Trinity Fete on the 13th May.

David Sewell from the Hartfield History Group highlighted the latest event of a talk in 28th April from the Queen’s body guard.

They meet on 4th Wednesday in the Village Hall.

Julie Madden reported on activities at the Village Hall.

The AGM would take place on Monday 24th April and new volunteers would be very welcome.

She also reported on HARTs 27th May 2023 would host a puppeteer for children and a workshop to follow. Again more people would be most welcome.

The Rude Mechanical Play would take place on 11th June 2023.

Open Gardens on 20th and 21st May for the Colemans Hatch Horticultural Society would welcome visitors to eight gardens over two days for £5.

Cllr Mike Colenutt reported on the big help out day and the proposed litter pick to meet at the pavilion 9-12pm on 8th May 2023.

Cllr John Smith requested for at least 15 marshals for the Honey Run for November 2023. The following distances were available: 2k 10k and a half marathon. He reported on a morning of fun and last year it made over £1700 for local causes.

1. To receive questions from parishioners.

The Chair was asked if the Council had a Pooh strategy.

Car parking was highlighted again as an issue within the High Street.

Meeting Closed at 9:25pm